

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. The Applicants have currently amended Claims 1 and 15 as suggested by the Examiner and have canceled Claims 3, 5, 8-14, 17 and 19. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-7, 15, 16, 18 and 20 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102

These claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,472,694 to Wilson, et al. (Wilson). However, the Examiner has indicated allowance of Claim 5 if rewritten in independent form. In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, the Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claims 3 and 5, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, this now places Claim 1 and its remaining dependent claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to these Claims.

II. Rejection of Claims 2, 4, 6-7, 15-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson, Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,479,844 to Taylor (Taylor), and Claims 15-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,735,677 to Kawachi, et al. (Kawachi). However, Claim 4 is now allowable in view of the present amendment since it is dependent on Claim 1, which now incorporates the elements as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 15-18 and 20 are also allowable in view of the present amendment, since Claim 15 now has the elements of Claims 17 and 19 incorporated therein, which the Examiner indicated would place Claim 15 and its remaining dependent claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §103 rejection with respect to these Claims.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-7, 15, 16, 18 and 20.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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